

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 158603

EXDIS, FOR EILTS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PINR, EG, CD, SU

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR'S MEETING WITH SADAT ON AFRICA

REF: CAIRO 11293 AND 11017

1. THIS MESSAGE SUPPLEMENTS FLASH RESPONSE WE HAVE JUST SENT YOU FOR DISCUSSING WITH SADAT CHADIAN REQUEST THAT EMISSARY BE RECEIVED IN WASHINGTON.

2. YOU SHOULD TELL SADAT, IN RESPONSE TO HIS JUNE 30 CONVERSATION WITH YOU ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHAD, THAT PRESIDENT CARTER APPRECIATED RECEIVING HIS VIEWS AND HAS BEEN FOLLOWING DEVELOPMENTS THERE CLOSELY WITH SADAT'S
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CONCERNS IN MIND. WE LOOK FORWARD TO RECEIVING SADAT'S LATEST VIEWS IN YOUR FRIDAY MEETING WITH HIM. MEANWHILE, WE WANT TO SHARE OUR LATEST ASSESSMENT OF SITUATION IN CHAD WITH SADAT, AS FOLLOWS:

3. TALKING POINTS ON CHAD:

--THE MILITARY SITUATION IN NORTHERN CHAD REMAINS CRITICAL, AND IT APPEARS THAT THE GOVERNMENT MAY BE LOSING CONTROL OVER THE TIBESTI REGION. BARDAI, THE MOST IMPORTANT

CHADIAN MILITARY OUTPOST IN THE REGION UNDER ATTACK BY THE LIBYAN-SUPPORTED TOUBOU REBELS ACCORDING TO OUR INFORMATION, FELL ON JULY 7. ATTACKS ON ZOUAR ARE INCREASING. OUR MOST RECENT INFORMATION ON OUANINGA KEBIR SUGGESTS THAT THE SITUATION THERE HAS BEEN CALM SINCE JULY 2.

--WE HAVE NO KNOWLEDGE OF RECENT DEVELOPMENTS IN CHAD'S OTHER INSURGENCY--LED BY HISEN HABRE IN EASTERN CHAD--OTHER THAN THAT CONVEYED BY PRESIDENT SADAT IN HIS CONVERSATION. THERE HAVE BEEN REPORTS OF RECENT LIBYAN EFFORTS TO FORM A COALITION BETWEEN HISEN HABRE AND THE FORCES OF GOUKOUNI QUADAIMI IN THE TIBESTI REGION. WE DO NOT KNOW WHETHER THESE EFFORTS HAVE MET WITH MUCH SUCCESS. PERSONAL RIVALRIES HAVE MADE IT DIFFICULT FOR THE REBEL LEADERS TO WORK TOGETHER IN THE PAST.

--WE AGREE THAT OUTSIDE ASSISTANCE PROBABLY WOULD BE REQUIRED TO REESTABLISH THE GOVERNMENT'S CONTROL OF THE NORTH. WE HAVE SEEN NO EVIDENCE THAT THE REBELS INTEND TO MARCH ON THE CAPITAL AND WE DOUBT THAT THEY HAVE THE CAPABILITY OF DOING SO.

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--LIBYAN TROOPS MAY HAVE SYMBOLICALLY PULLED BACK FROM AOZOU, ALTHOUGH OUR INFORMATION IS SKETCHY. WE BELIEVE THAT LIBYA CONTINUES TO SUPPLY GOUKOUNI WITH SMALL ARMS AND AMMUNITION, PROVISIONS, AND LOGISTIC SUPPORT, THOUGH WE HAVE NO GOOD ESTIMATES AS TO THE EXTENT OF SUCH AID.

--LIBYA'S INVOLVEMENT IN NORTHERN CHAD STEMS PRIMARILY FROM A TERRITORIAL OBJECTIVE--TO ASSERT LIBYAN CONTROL OVER A LARGE STRIP OF THE TEBESTI PLATEAU. QADHAFI IS CONVINCED THAT THE AREA CONTAINS RICH URANIUM AND MANGANESE DEPOSITS. QADHAFI ALSO HAS RELIGIOUS AFFINITY WITH REBEL LEADER.

--QADHAFI'S OBJECTIVES PROBABLY ARE LIMITED TO NORTHERN CHAD AND DO NOT INCLUDE THE SPONSORSHIP OF A DIRECT ATTACK ON THE MALLOUM REGIME, ALTHOUGH HIS SUPPORT OF REBEL FACTIONS UNDOUBTEDLY WEAKENS IT. OVER THE LONGER RUN QADHAFI PROBABLY WANTS AN INDEPENDENT OR SEMI-AUTONOMOUS TOUBOU STATE IN THE SAHARA, THAT WOULD BE CLOSELY ALIGNED WITH LIBYA. IT IS ALSO POSSIBLE THAT HE SEEKS TO USE THE THREAT OF CREATING SUCH A STATE TO EXERT PRESSURE ON CHAD OVER ISSUES OF CONCERN TO LIBYA (SUPPORT

FOR ANTI-NUMAYRI DISSIDENTS IN SUDAN, FOR EXAMPLE) AND THE MIDDLE EAST.

--WE HAVE NO EVIDENCE OF SOVIET-LIBYAN COLLUSION IN QADHAFI'S CHADIAN VENTURE. WE ASSUME, HOWEVER, THAT LIBYANS AND LIBYAN-SUPPLIED REVELS IN CHAD ARE OUTFITTED WITH SOVIET WEAPONS BECAUSE THE USSR IS LIBYA'S PRINCIPAL ARMS SUPPLIER.

4. WITH RESPECT TO SADAT'S CONCERN ABOUT POSSIBLE ISRAELI MILITARY ACTION, YOU SHOULD SAY THAT SADAT CAN BE ASSURED WE WILL CONTINUE TO EXERT EVERY EFFORT TO ENSURE THAT STABILITY WILL BE MAINTAINED IN AREA AS WE
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PURSUER OUR PEACE EFFORTS. WE HAVE NO REASON TO BELIEVE SUCH MILITARY ACTION IS LIKELY IN PRESENT CIRCUMSTANCES. IN THIS CONNECTION, YOU SHOULD NOTE OUR CONTINUING EFFORTS WITH ALL CONCERNED, INCLUDING ISRAELIS, TO CALM SITUATION IN SOUTHERN LEBANON IN PARTICULAR.

5. WITH RESPECT TO CHADIAN SITUATION, YOU SHOULD INFORM SADAT THAT WE HAVE BEEN IN CLOSE CONTACT WITH FRENCH ON MILITARY DEVELOPMENTS IN NORTH. VANCE

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